

HOUSE No. 1188

By Mr. Hynes of Marshfield, petition of Frank M. Hynes that students who have not passed the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) examination be authorized to petition for a determination of qualification for graduation. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A COMPETENCY EXAMINATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Subsection (i) of section 1D of Chapter 69 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 adding the following paragraph:—
4 Notwithstanding the foregoing, any student who has completed
5 the twelfth grade and has not satisfied the requirements for a com-
6 petency determination due to failure to pass the Massachusetts
7 Comprehensive Assessment System examination may petition the
8 student's school for a determination of qualification to graduate.
9 Upon such petition, a panel, comprised of the student's teacher in
10 the academic subject the student has failed, the school's depart-
11 ment chair in the failed subject area, a guidance counselor and, if
12 applicable, an appropriate special needs faculty member, shall
13 conduct an objective evaluation of the abilities and performance
14 of the student. The panel shall review the student's portfolio of
15 academic work, including tests and written assignments from
16 grades nine through twelve to determine if the student is qualified
17 to graduate. If the foregoing panel determines that such student
18 has satisfied requirements for graduation the student shall be
19 deemed to have satisfied the standardized examination portion
20 needed for a competency determination.